

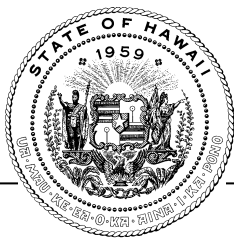
**HR-101**

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 4:55:16 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/22/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maureen Datta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



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Statement of  
**RODNEY FUNAKOSHI**  
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS AND  
AGRICULTURE**  
Friday, March 22, 2019  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

**LATE**

in consideration of  
**HCR 107 / HR 101**  
**RELATING TO REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO  
MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A STATWIDE PROGRAM TO  
ADDRESS AGRICULTURAL THEFT.**

Chairs McKelvey and Creagan, Vice Chairs Kitagawa and DeCoite, and Members of the House Committees on Economic Development & Business and Agriculture.

The Office of Planning offers **comments** on HCR 107 and HR 101 which request the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism and Department of Agriculture to make recommendations regarding a Statewide program to address agricultural theft.

While we certainly share the concerns and are aware of the debilitating impacts of agricultural theft on farmers, neither the Office of Planning nor the Department of Business, Economic Development has any related programs or enforcement capability to contribute to resolution of this issue. We respectfully defer to and fully support the Department of Agriculture in their efforts to address agricultural theft.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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**LATE**

March 22, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON HCR 107/HR 101**  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND TOURISM AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS  
AGRICULTURAL THEFT

Room 309  
9:30 AM

Aloha Chairs McKlevey and Creagan, Vice Chairs Kitagawa and DeCoite, and Members of the Committese:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HCR 107 and HR 101**, requesting that DBEDT and HDOA make recommendations regarding a program to address agricultural theft.

Agricultural theft and vandalism are persistent problems facing agriculture. Weather, drought, pests, weeds, disease, activists, unstable markets, transportation, labor issues, and a changing climate all contribute to uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. Few businesses face such challenges, yet we are charged with producing food, fiber, fuel and flowers for the 99% of non-farmers. Add in the constant threat and impacts of trespass, theft, and vandalism, and it's a wonder farms and ranches remain viable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**LATE**

**HR-101**

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 2:09:10 PM

Testimony for EDB on 3/22/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Ag Crime is one of the major costs associated with agriculture. Security measures can be put into place but those who want to steal or vandalize always seem one step ahead with means to evade the measures whether by destroying cameras or cutting fences and gates. Recently on Oahu, they even resorted to blackmail after stealing a piece of equipment. The farmer could not afford the time so paid the ransom.

Crime is everyone's concern and we understand the low priority placed on ag crime in the face of murders and other crimes affecting human safety. Yet at the same time we see ag crime as a gateway crime to more serious offenses. Druggies steal ag products to support their drug habits, escalating to more serious forms of crime. Investment into addressing this issue is critical not only for agriculture but also for our community's safety.

Innovative solutions including ways for public private partnerships, cost share of new technologies, greater awareness should be included for consideration. The solution must be regional as increasing security in one area will only push crime into their neighbors and not reduce crime ..just move it.

We respectfully request your strong support of this measure for a comprehensive program addressing ag crime ..it is part of ag viability that is needed to increase the State's Agricultural Production. thank you.